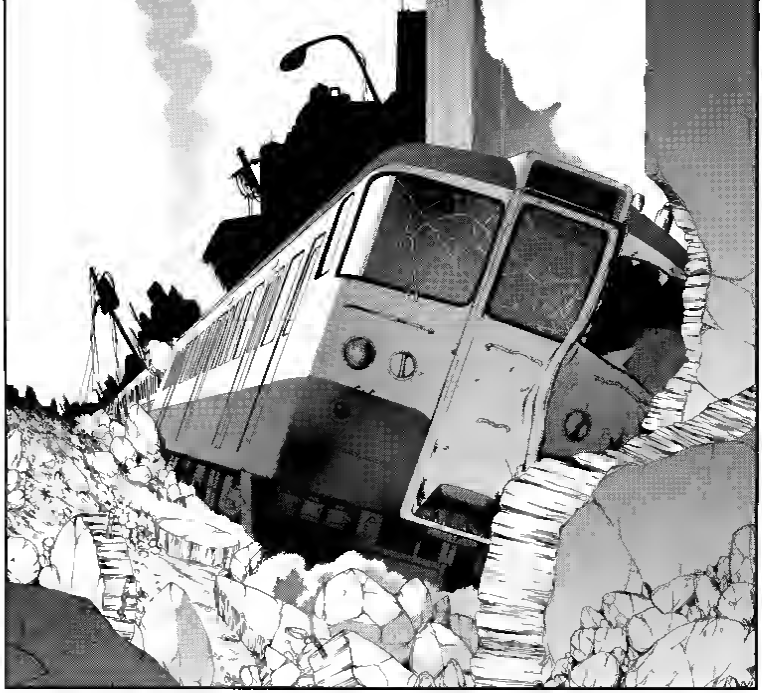


AAH...

UGH...

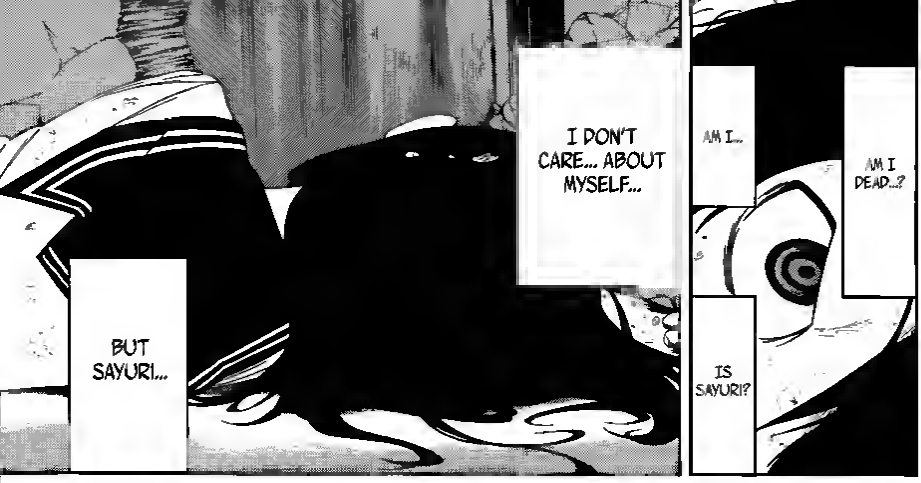
SAYURI...

Explosive 読切
エクスプロシブ読み切り
センターカラー5P

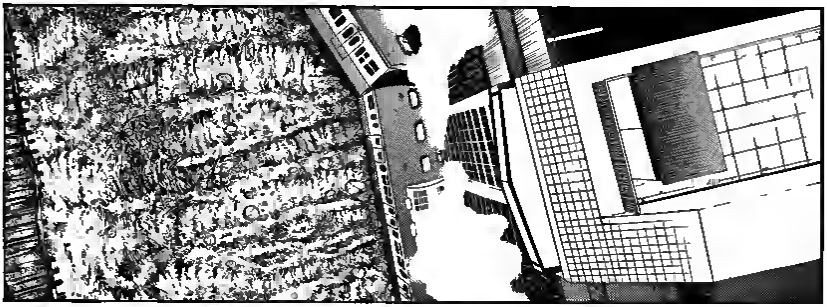
あいつが死ぬこと。それだけは絶対に許せない！

涙を許した地獄の使者

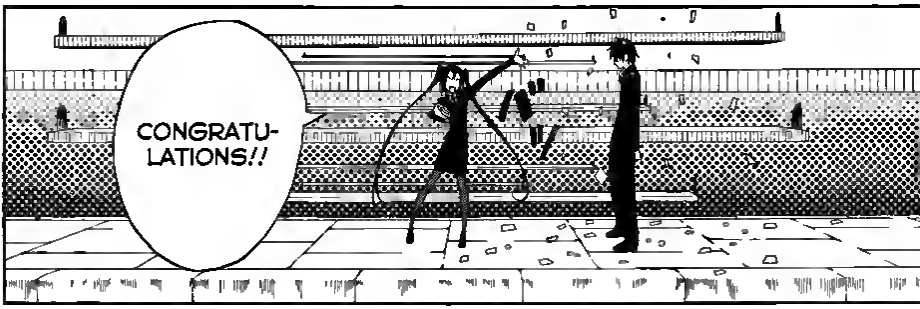
荻野純


I DON'T CARE... ABOUT MYSELF...
BUT SAYURI...
AM I...
AM I DEAD...?
IS SAYURI?

PLEASE... FORGIVE ME...



YOU ARE THIS YEAR'S MILLIONTH VISITOR TO HELL!!
CONGRATULATIONS, SOU MAMIYA!!


CONGRATULATIONS!!

SHOULDN'T YOU BE GOING "I DON'T WANNA DIE YET!" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HUH? YOU'VE ALREADY ACCEPTED THAT YOU'RE DEAD?
WAIT, WHY ARE YOU CONGRATULATING ME!? I'M DEAD!

WELL... YEAH, I DIDN'T *WANT* TO DIE.
IF I'M DEAD THEN SAYURI IS TOO!!
HEH, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT GUTS.
PERFECT.
ANYWAY, WHO'RE YOU?
YOU SEEM PRETTY CALM ABOUT ALL THIS DEATH STUFF...
OH, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
I WORK AS A GUIDE FOR THE SOULS OF THE DEPARTED.
CALL ME MAO.
SO WHAT,
YOU GUIDE PEOPLE TO HELL THEN?
WELL, BASICALLY.

HELL...
NOT THAT I GET A SAY IN IT, BUT CAN I AT LEAST ASK WHY I'M GOING THERE?
SURE, NO HARM IN TELLING YOU!
USUALLY GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN AND BAD PEOPLE GO TO HELL,
BUT YOU'RE JUST A NORMAL GUY, SO IT WAS PRETTY MUCH CHOSEN AT RANDOM.
WAIT, I'M GOING TO HELL BECAUSE I LOST A COIN FLIP!? IS THIS SOME SICK JOKE!?
OKAY, JUST FORGET THE WHOLE "HELL IS A BAD PLACE" IDEA.
PEOPLE IN HEAVEN AND HELL ARE TREATED PRETTY MUCH THE EXACT SAME WAY.
SERIOUSLY!?
YOU'LL BE DOING WORK EITHER WAY, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS WHAT KIND.
HEAVEN
BRAINY TYPES
WE TRY AND KEEP IT AT AN EVEN SPLIT BETWEEN DESK JOBS AND MANUAL LABOR.
HELL
PHYSICALLY STRONG PEOPLE
THAT WORKS OUT GREAT FOR YOU, DOESN'T IT? YOU'D BE MUCH BETTER SUITED TO HELL.
YOU CAN'T JUST CATEGORIZE PEOPLE LIKE THAT!!

A CHANCE?
OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO GO YET.
YOU'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY OF THOSE LINGERING REGRET THINGS, SO GUESS WE SHOULD GET GOING.
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S NOT A BAD PLACE.
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE THE MILLIONTH VISITOR TO HELL!!
THAT MEANS YOU GET ONE CHANCE TO COME BACK TO LIFE!!
WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY "COMING BACK TO LIFE." YOU'LL JUST HAVE NEVER DIED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE...
I CAN COME BACK TO LIFE!?

SO IN YOUR CASE, THIS TRAIN ACCIDENT WILL NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.
!?
SO EVERYONE ELSE WHO DIED WILL BE SAVED TOO!?
YUP.
OH? WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND ON THE TRAIN?
I JUST CAN'T LET HER DIE!
NO... SHE'S NOT MY...
SO TO GET YOUR CHANCE, YOU'LL BE COMPETING AGAINST THE MILLIONTH VISITOR TO HEAVEN FOR THE RIGHT TO COME BACK TO LIFE.
IF YOU LOSE, YOU'LL PASS ON. AND IF YOU WIN, THE ACCIDENT WILL BE ERASED FROM HISTORY.

IF YOU WIN THE MATCH, YOU'LL REDO APRIL 10TH,
BUT WITHOUT THE ACCIDENT HAPPENING.
AND EVERYONE THERE, INCLUDING YOU, WILL LIVE AND GET THEIR HAPPY ENDING! WAIT, THE POINT IS THAT IT'S *NOT* AN ENDING, RIGHT.

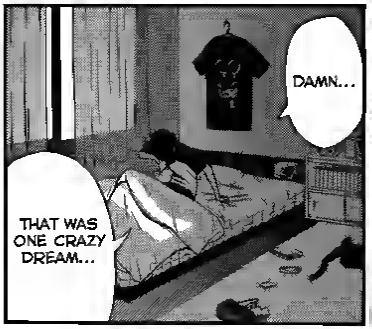
SO, WILL YOU TAKE THE CHALLENGE?
OF COURSE, YOU CAN ALWAYS TURN IT DOWN.
LIKE ANYONE WOULD EVER TURN THAT DOWN...
I'LL DO IT!!

UNDERSTOOD!!
THEN LET THE ONE MILLION CHALLENGE BEGIN!!

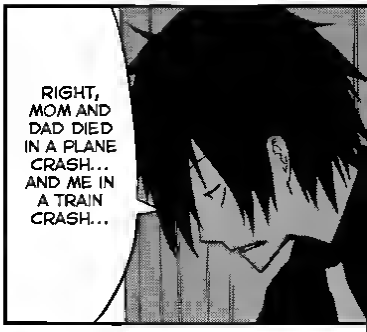
IS HE THEIR SON?
THAT PLANE CRASH...
SUCH A TRAGEDY...
SO TRAGIC...
BOTH HIS PARENTS?
SAYURI...

THE HELL DO YOU WANT...
SOU...

MY ROOM...

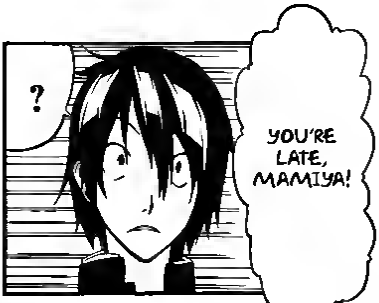

DAMN...
THAT WAS ONE CRAZY DREAM...

HAVE A GREAT DAY!
SEE YOU.
ガチャ


RIGHT, MOM AND DAD DIED IN A PLANE CRASH... AND ME IN A TRAIN CRASH...

WE REALLY SUCK AT PUBLIC TRANSPOR-TATION.

BUT THIS PUPPY MADE ME STAY.
ARF!
YUUKI YAMANAKA

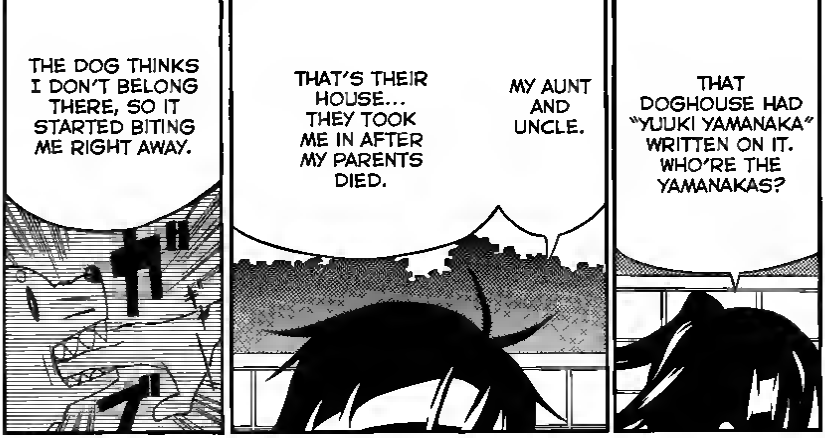

?
YOU'RE LATE, MAMIYA!

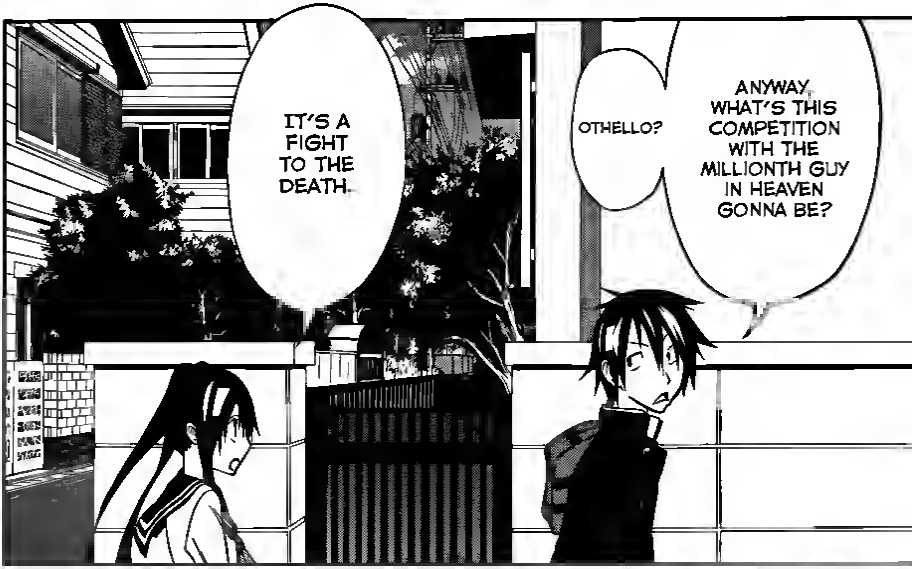
I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU!

YEAH, TOO BAD.

TCH...
SO THAT WASN'T A DREAM.
DON'T JUST WALK INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S YARDS!

I NEED TO BE ABLE TO BLEND IN AROUND YOU!
IT'S YOUR SCHOOL'S UNIFORM!
UH, WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT? YOU COSPLAYING OR SOMETHING?


THE DOG THINKS I DON'T BELONG THERE, SO IT STARTED BITING ME RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S THEIR HOUSE... THEY TOOK ME IN AFTER MY PARENTS DIED.
MY AUNT AND UNCLE.
THAT DOGHOUSE HAD "YUUKI YAMANAKA" WRITTEN ON IT. WHO'RE THE YAMANAKAS?


IT'S A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
OTHELLO?
ANYWAY, WHAT'S THIS COMPETITION WITH THE MILLIONTH GUY IN HEAVEN GONNA BE?

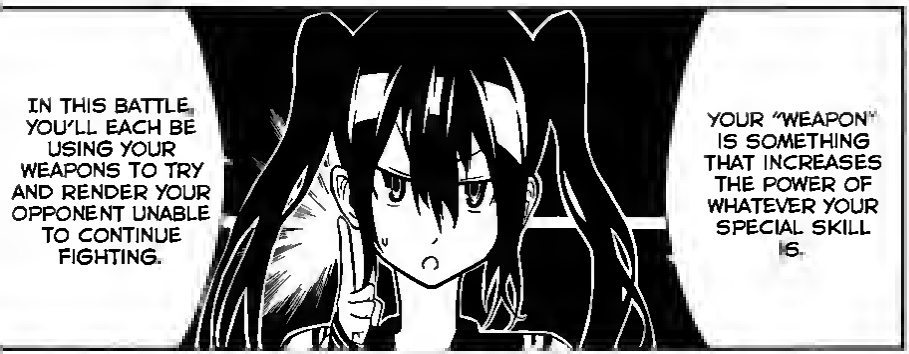
SO IT'S JUST A FIGHT, THEN...
WELL... NOT REALLY. IT'S NOT ACTUALLY TO THE DEATH.
A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!!?

THEY'LL HAVE A GUIDE LIKE ME WITH THEM, AND WE CAN SENSE WHERE THE OTHER IS.
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSE TO US AS WE SPEAK.
SHALL WE GO SEE WHO YOU'LL BE FIGHTING?
YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?
WE'LL SEE THEM WHEN WE TURN THIS CORNER.
THAT'S MORE THAN JUST CLOSE!!
YEAH, LET'S GO MEET THEM.

ドカン
MY, MY.
HOW FOOLISH...

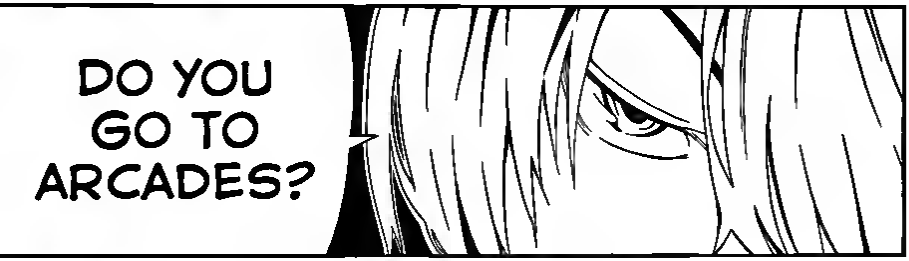
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M SHIN KAMIZONO.
WOW.
STRAIGHT OFF WITH A SURPRISE ATTACK.
ARE YOU OKAY?
THE HELL!? HOW ARE YOU THAT CRAZY STRONG...?
パラパラ

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALREADY FOUND HIS WEAPON.
WEAPON? WHAT WEAPON?
MAO! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN EXPLAINED THAT YET!?
SORRY, MIYU... I'LL DO IT NOW.
WOW, YOU REALLY SUCK AT YOUR JOB.
SHUT UP!! YOU DON'T GET TO SAY THAT AFTER BEING BLOWN AWAY BY A SINGLE PUNCH!!


IN THIS BATTLE, YOU'LL EACH BE USING YOUR WEAPONS TO TRY AND RENDER YOUR OPPONENT UNABLE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING.
YOUR "WEAPON" IS SOMETHING THAT INCREASES THE POWER OF WHATEVER YOUR SPECIAL SKILL IS.

KAMIZONO, RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT, HITTING PEOPLE OR SOMETHING?
YUP.
WELL THAT WAS BLUNT..

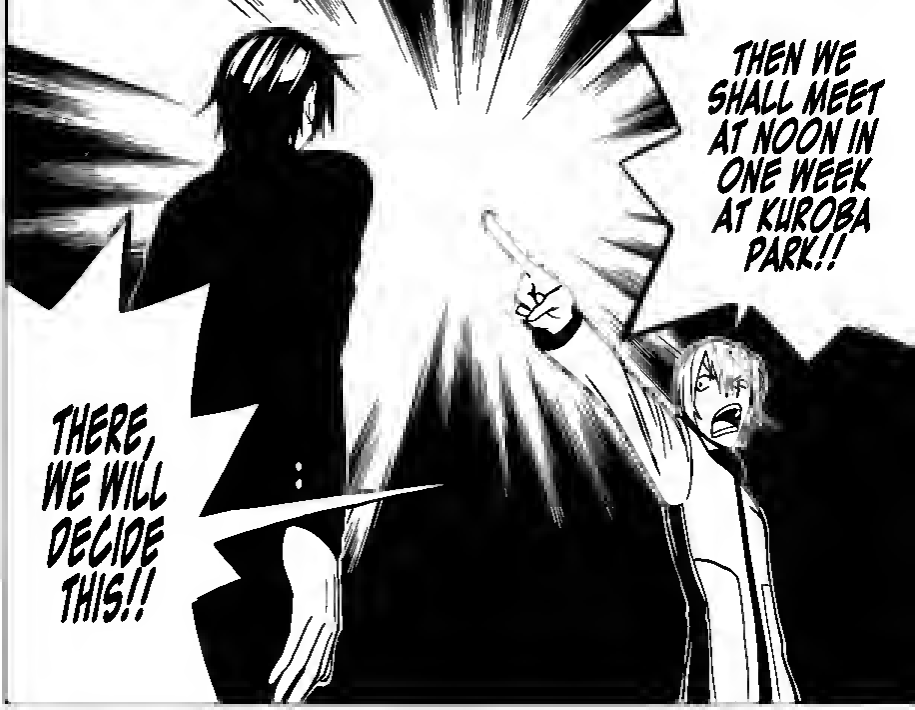
SO WHAT'RE YOU GOOD AT?
UH... I DUNNO.
COME ON, EVEN YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING YOU'RE GOOD AT.
WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR OPINION OF ME?


DO YOU GO TO ARCADES?

UH... SOMETIMES?

I AM THAT MAN!!
THEN YOU'VE HEARD THE LEGEND!! THE LEGEND OF THE MAN WHO HITS THE PUNCHING MACHINES SO HARD THEY BREAK!!
IS THAT SO...
NEVER HEARD OF YOU.
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
HUH!? HEY, WAIT!
I CAN TAKE YOU DOWN RIGHT NOW, BEFORE YOU EVEN FIND YOUR WEAPON!!
EITHER WAY, THIS IS PERFECT!
I DIDN'T-
DON'T YOU MOCK ME, MAMIYA!!!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

WAIT, WHAT!? THAT'S NO GOOD!!
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO DEFEAT HIM BEFORE HE FINDS HIS WEAPON!
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL PASS ON TOO!
UH... NOW WHAT?
OKAY...
COME AGAIN?
ONE WEEK!!
ALRIGHT!!
UH... SURE?
HOW'S THAT SOUND!?
OF COURSE, I'LL BE TRAINING AS WELL!!
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE WEEK TO FIND YOUR WEAPON AND TRAIN.


THEN WE SHALL MEET AT NOON IN ONE WEEK AT KUROBA PARK!!
THERE, WE WILL DECIDE THIS!!

SEE YOU, MIYU!
HUH...
WEIRD GUY.
HA HA HA!!
I'LL SEE YOU THEN, MAO.
THEN I SHALL LEAVE YOU FOR TODAY!

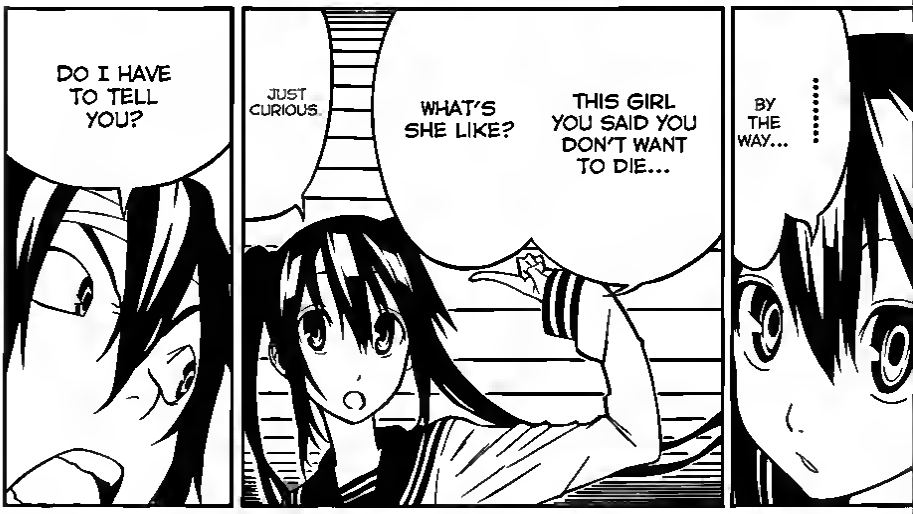
HEY, SHE SURE ACTS A LOT NICER THAN YOU, PLUS SHE LOOKS BETTER.
WELL THAT'S JUST RUDE, MAMIYA.
YOU'VE KNOWN HER FOR ALL OF A FEW MINUTES AND YOU'RE BASING YOUR IMPRESSION OF HER ON HER LOOKS? LEWD.
I WISH I'D GOTTEN HER INSTEAD OF YOU.
POOR MIYU.
YEAH, HE'S LIKE, TEN TIMES WEIRDER THAN YOU.

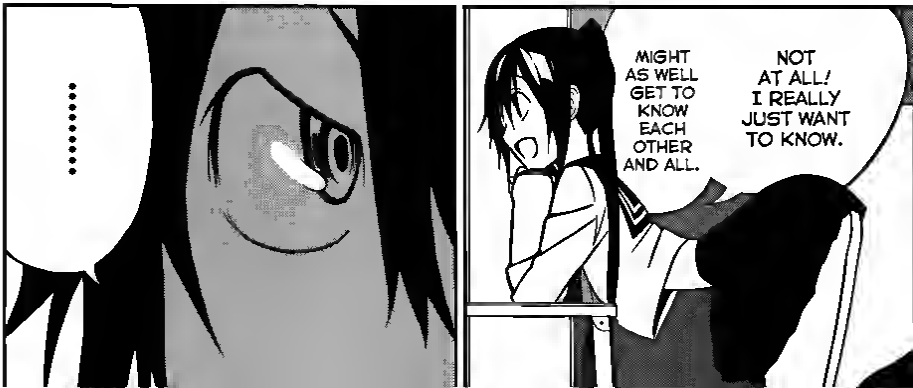
SO MY SPECIAL SKILL, HUH...
I HAVE NO CLUE.

WHAT IF SOMEONE JUST HAS NO SKILLS AT ALL?
SOMETHING LIKE A TALENT OR A GOOD POINT...
JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN REALLY LIST YOUR OWN GOOD POINTS.
HMMM...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
COULDN'T YOU ASK YOUR RELATIVES?
YEAH...

YEAH...
GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEM.
THOUGH... MY AUNT, UNCLE, AND COUSIN ARE BUSY WITH WORK, SO THEY GET HOME REALLY LATE.


DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
JUST CURIOUS.
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
THIS GIRL YOU SAID YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE...
BY THE WAY...


.....
MIGHT AS WELL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND ALL.
NOT AT ALL! I REALLY JUST WANT TO KNOW.

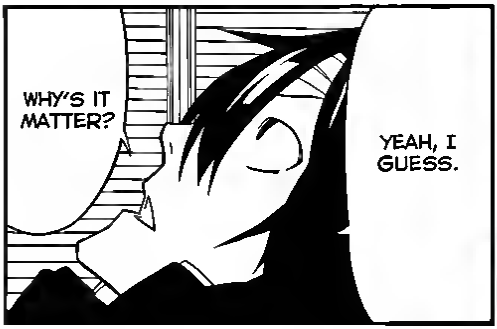
SAYURI SAWASAKI LIVED NEXT DOOR TO ME BEFORE MY PARENTS DIED.
WE ALWAYS PLAYED TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE KIDS. I HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED TO HER MUCH SINCE I MOVED, BUT SHE'S THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO A SISTER.

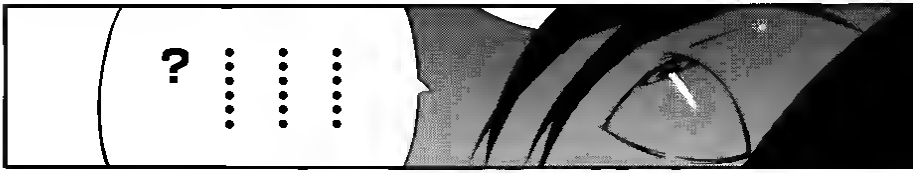
SHE'S SMART, SHE'S GOT A TON OF FRIENDS, AND SHE'S JUST THE KIND OF PERSON YOU FEEL HAPPY BEING AROUND.
WE ENDED UP GOING TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL, BUT UNLIKE ME, SHE TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT PERSON.

SO IT'S A CHILDHOOD FRIEND THING, HUH...
WELL, MAYBE I JUST THINK THAT BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN HER SO LONG.

I MEAN, YOU BASICALLY WENT "OH WELL" ABOUT YOURSELF BEING DEAD, SO IF YOU WANT HER TO LIVE,
YOU PROBABLY HAVE A PRETTY GOOD REASON...

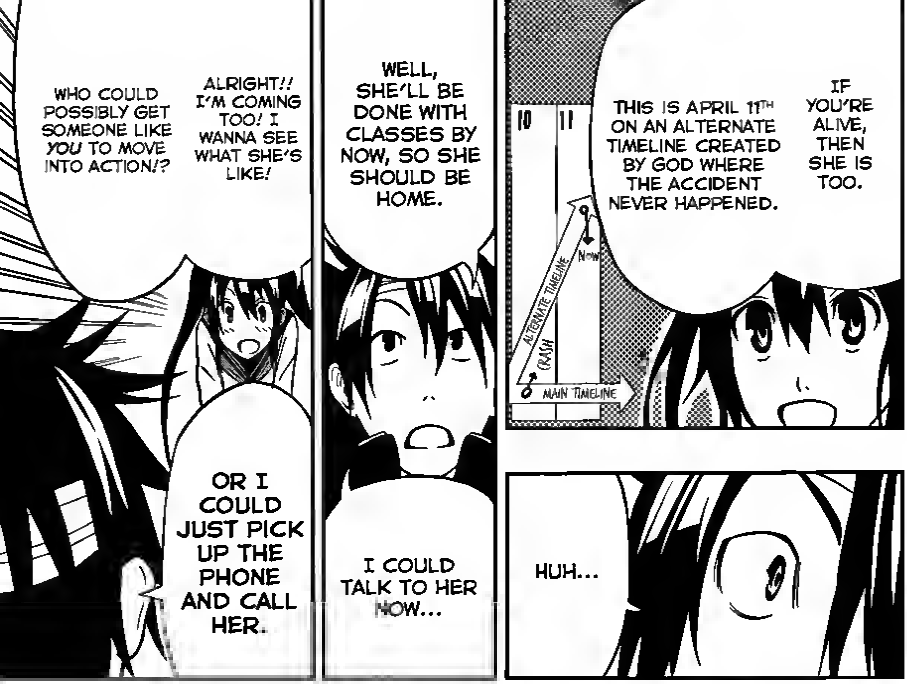
SO WHY DON'T YOU WANT HER TO DIE?
HUH?


YEAH, I GUESS.
WHY'S IT MATTER?


?

YOU IDIOT! THE WHOLE POINT OF THIS IS THAT SHE'S DEAD!!

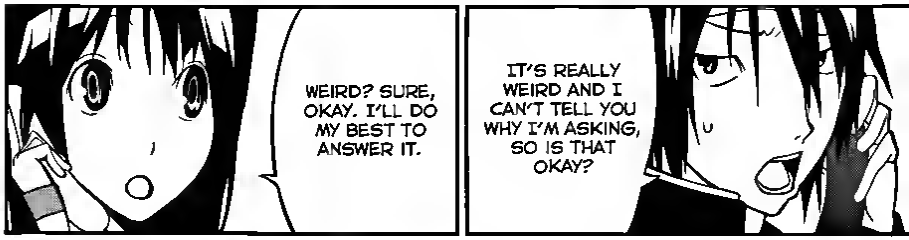
THAT'S IT! WE CAN ASK *HER* WHAT YOUR TALENT IS!


IF YOU'RE ALIVE, THEN SHE IS TOO.
THIS IS APRIL 11TH ON AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE CREATED BY GOD WHERE THE ACCIDENT NEVER HAPPENED.
10
11
NOW
ALTERNATE TIMELINE
CRASH
MAIN TIMELINE
HUH...
WELL, SHE'LL BE DONE WITH CLASSES BY NOW, SO SHE SHOULD BE HOME.
I COULD TALK TO HER NOW...
ALRIGHT!! I'M COMING TOO! I WANNA SEE WHAT SHE'S LIKE!
WHO COULD POSSIBLY GET SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO MOVE INTO ACTION!?
OR I COULD JUST PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL HER.

SHOULD HAVE HER NUMBER HERE...
memo
memo

カチ カチ
RIIIING RIIIING
ドキドキドーキ
HELLO, SAWA-SAKI HOUSE.
!!
H-HELLO! I HAVEN'T CALLED IN A WHILE, BUT THIS IS MAMIYA. IS SAYURI THERE...?

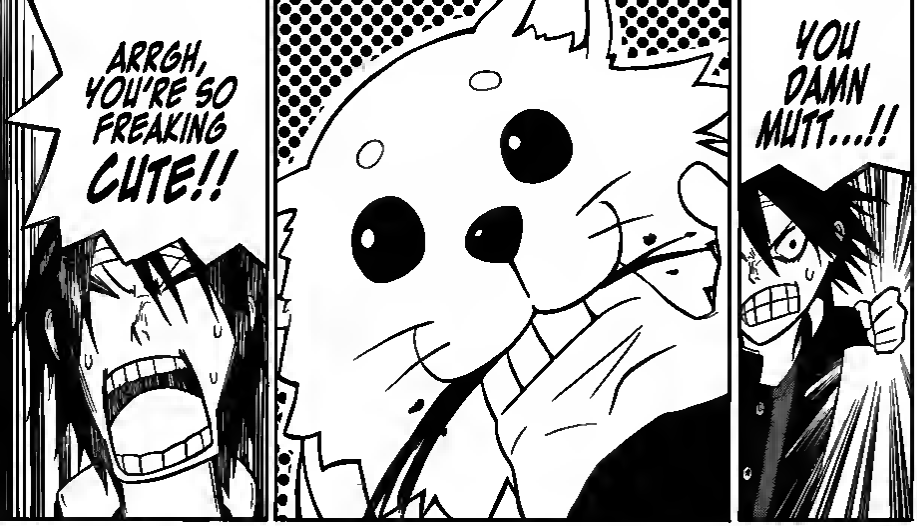
I... NEED TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.
A QUESTION?
YEAH, AND UH...
OH, IT'S YOU...
IT'S ME. IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME...
WHAT IS IT, SOU? IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME.


WEIRD? SURE, OKAY. I'LL DO MY BEST TO ANSWER IT.
IT'S REALLY WEIRD AND I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY I'M ASKING, SO IS THAT OKAY?

ALRIGHT THEN... DO I HAVE ANY TALENTS? LIKE, CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING I'M GOOD AT?
THANKS...
TALENTS? I CAN'T THINK OF ANY, BUT...
FIGURED.
OH, BUT I CAN THINK OF ONE THING YOU'RE GOOD AT!

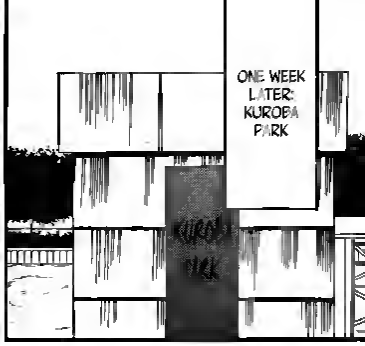
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT FROM?
HOLDING MYSELF BACK?
WELL, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
YOU'RE GREAT AT HOLDING YOURSELF BACK!!
BUT EVEN WHEN EVERYONE ELSE DID THAT, YOU DIDN'T.
YOU KNOW THAT ONE TEACHER WHO YELLS AT EVERYONE HE THINKS IS SOME SORT OF DELINQUENT? IT'D BE REALLY EASY TO SAY SOMETHING BACK TO HIM..
HUH...
IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING YOU DO UNCONSCIOUSLY SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT YOURSELF.
I DO?
YOU ALWAYS TAKE IN WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU AND STOP YOURSELF FROM DOING ANYTHING YOU SHOULDN'T.
HOLDING MYSELF BACK...

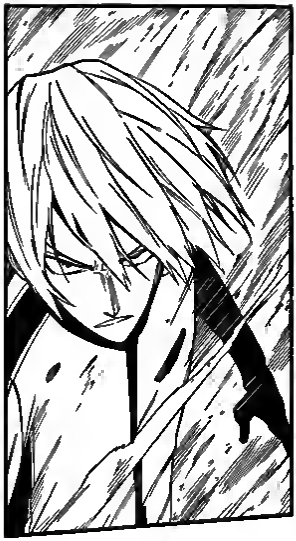
I SHOULD FEED YUUKI.
IT'S SIX.
OH.
WE HADN'T TALKED IN A WHILE. BUNCH OF STUFF TO CATCH UP ON.
THAT WAS A PRETTY LONG CALL.
WHEW...
バリボリ
HERE.
YUUKI
HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO USE THAT IN A FIGHT?
ARF ARF!!
HOLDING MYSELF BACK...
ARF!
YOU DIDN'T BITE HER EARLIER, DAMMIT!!
AGAIN!?
OOOO-OOOO-WWWW!!
ガブ!!


ARRGH, YOU'RE SO FREAKING CUTE!!
YOU DAMN MUTT...!!

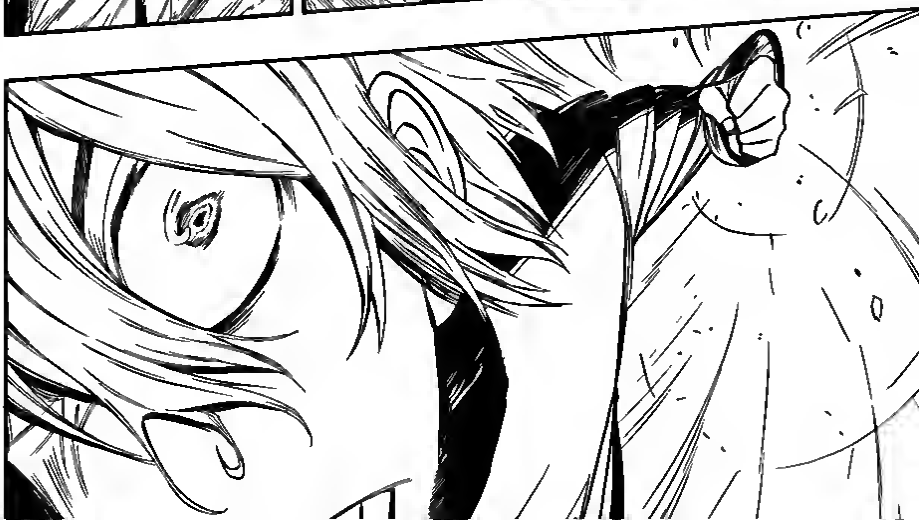
ゴン

HUH?

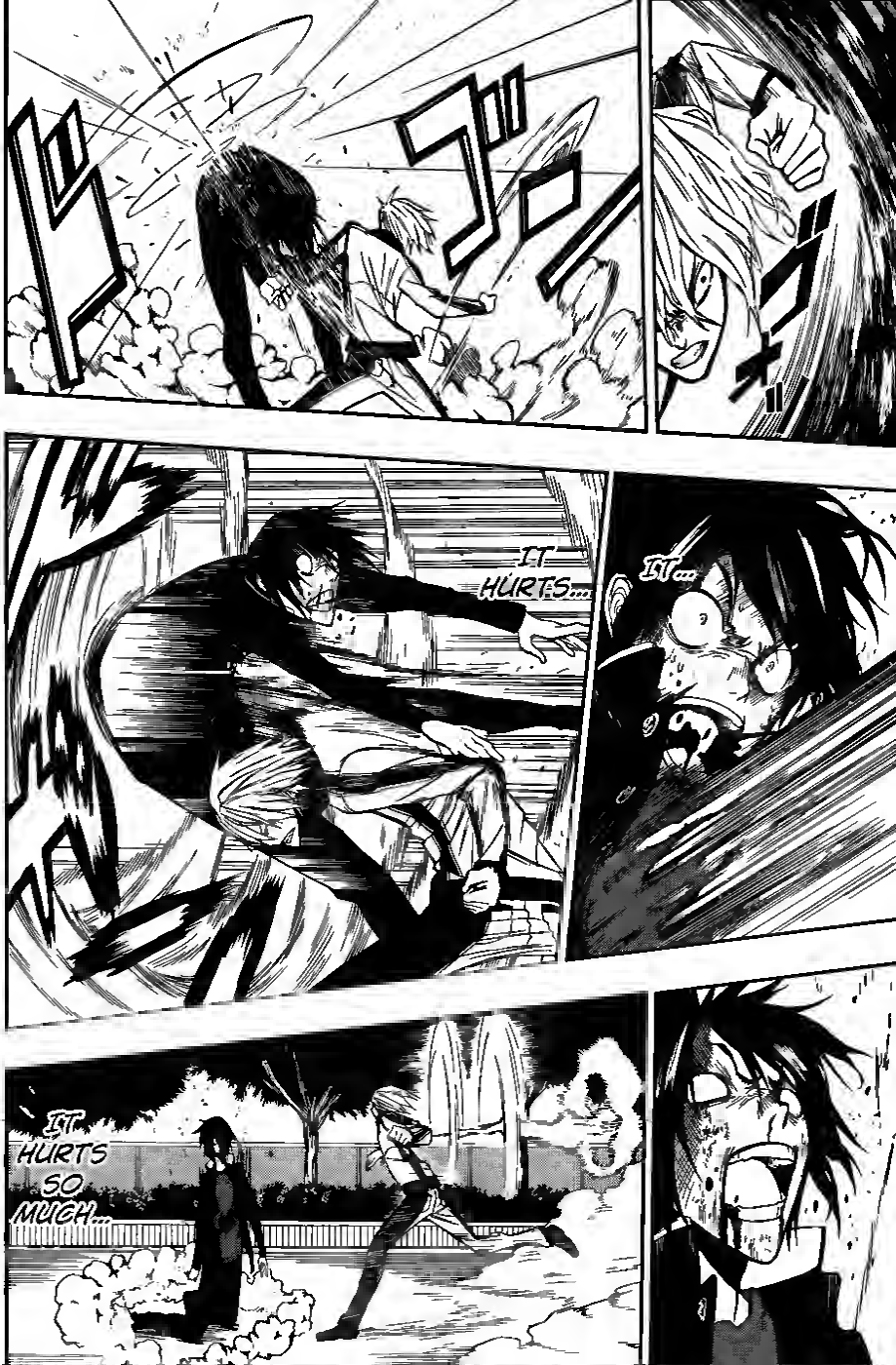

ONE WEEK LATER: KUROBA PARK



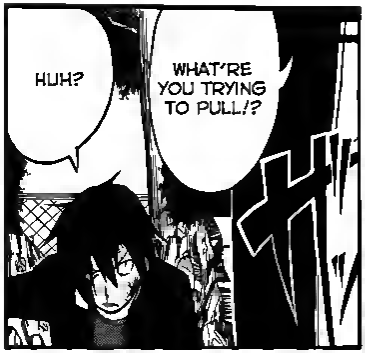
GAH!!



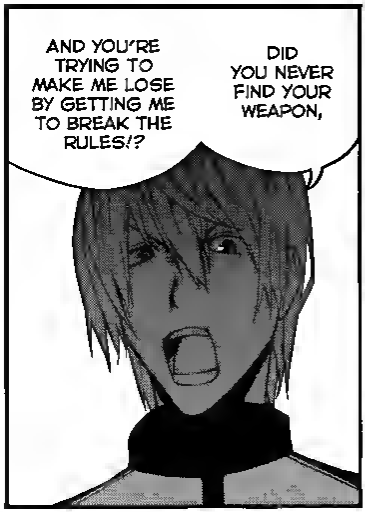
AAAHHH!!
NGH!!
ゴゴゴ

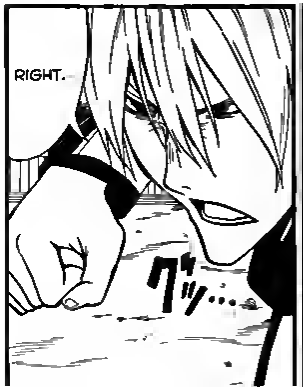

IT HURTS...
IT...
IT HURTS SO MUCH...

ドガン


HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PULL!?

UGH...


AND YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME LOSE BY GETTING ME TO BREAK THE RULES!?
DID YOU NEVER FIND YOUR WEAPON,


RIGHT.

MORON... I'D PASS ON TOO IF I DID THAT.

DON'T WORRY! THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT TO HIM FIGHTING IF THERE WASN'T A CHANCE OF HIM WINNING.
HEY, MAO... DID HE REALLY FIND HIS WEAPON?
HE CAN DO IT.
THAT'S ENOUGH! HE CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE!!
WHY NOT!? JUST LOOK AT HIM!!
OH? WHY NOT?

SHOULD LOOK AT HIM.
MAYBE YOU
!!
BRING IT.
FINE WITH ME!!

TIME TO FINISH THIS!!
!!!
TIME FOR ME TO GET A HIT IN!!
YOU'VE HIT ME SO MANY TIMES...

HUFF... HUFF...
...!!?
HE'S NOT GETTING BACK UP AFTER THAT.
YUP, GOT HIM RIGHT IN THE SPINE.
INCRE-DIBLE!!
LOOKS LIKE THIS YEAR'S WINNER IS HELL!!

IT'S...
RESTRAINT.
WHAT... IS YOUR WEAPON...?
AND ADDING THEIR POWER TO MY NEXT ATTACK.
WITHSTANDING ALL THE ATTACKS THAT HIT ME...
I LOST...
I LOST...
I LOSE.
SO THAT'S IT...

I'M SORRY... KASUMI...
NOW BOTH HE... AND SHE... ARE GOING TO...
HE WAS FIGHTING FOR SOMEONE ELSE, JUST LIKE I WAS...
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S OKAY...
HE'S HOLDING HIMSELF BACK...

THAT'S RIGHT...
I UNDER-STAND.
THAT DAY...
THAT RAINY DAY...
WHAT SAYURI TOLD ME
WHEN I WAS HOLDING MYSELF BACK...

SOU...
THE HELL DO YOU WANT...

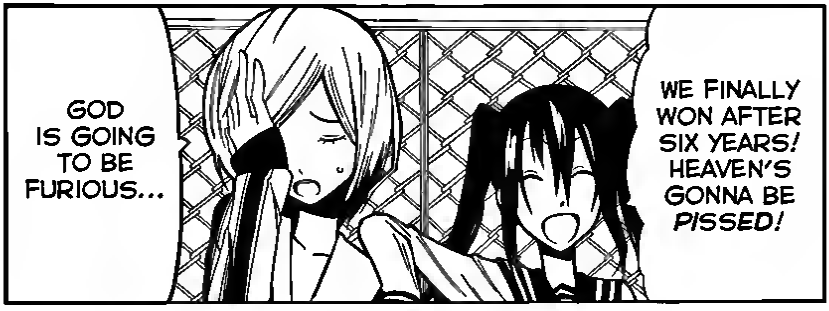
IT'S OKAY TO CRY.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S OKAY TO CRY.

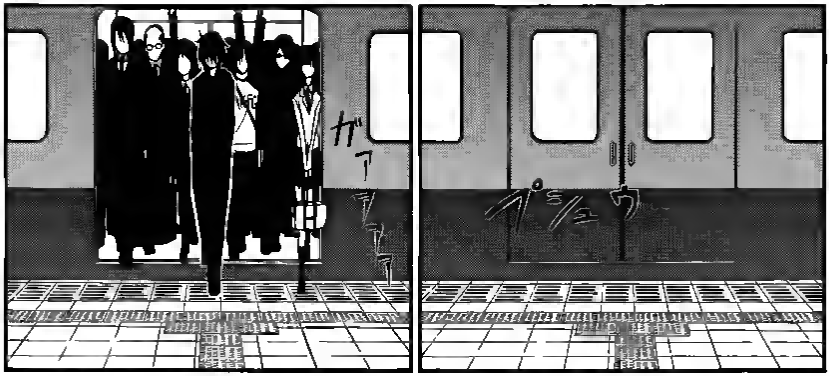
AH...
AAAHHH!! KASUMIIIII!!!
WHY I CAN'T LET YOU DIE LIKE THIS...
I UNDER-STAND, SAYURI.

YOU WERE THERE FOR ME.
WHEN MY PARENTS DIED, WHEN I SHOULDN'T HAVE HELD MYSELF BACK,

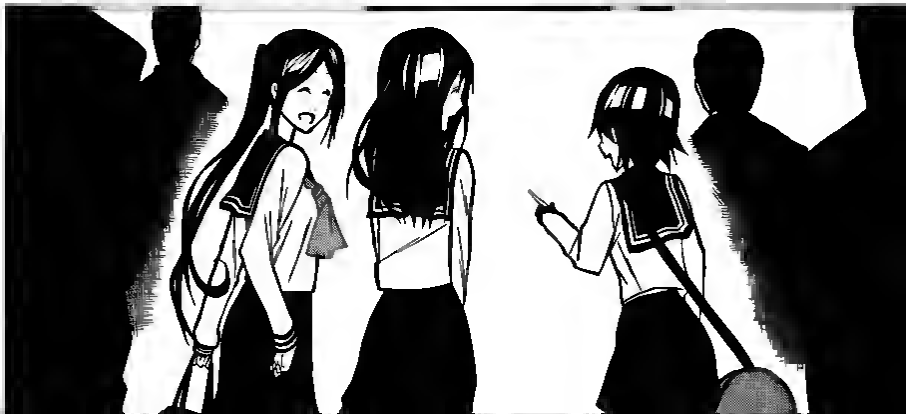
EVEN IF THAT'S THE ONLY TIME.

EVERYONE HAS TIMES WHEN THEY SHOULDN'T HOLD THEMSELVES BACK...


GOD IS GOING TO BE FURIOUS...
WE FINALLY WON AFTER SIX YEARS! HEAVEN'S GONNA BE PISSED!


ガァァァ
プシュウ

SO THE ACCIDENT REALLY DIDN'T HAPPEN.



短い非日常が終わりを告げ
かけがえのない日常がまた始まる――
涙を許した地獄の使者――――おわり